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ABSTRACT

A twenty-five-year follow-up study was conducted to determine the occupational, educational, marital and armed forces experiences of the graduating class of 1953 from the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical high schools located in New Brunswick, Perth, Amboy, and Woodbridge, New Jersey. Data, in the form of questionnaire responses, were obtained from ninety-four of 108 class graduates. Results revealed that seventy-five percent of all graduates resided within the boundaries of New Jersey. A total of fifty-nine percent of them have lived within Middlesex County at least twenty years since graduation and sixty-six percent have lived in the county for at least fifteen years. In regard to marital status, eighty-seven percent of the respondents were presently married. Approximately fifty-five percent of the graduates participated in some form of military service. In regard to employment, the results include the following: eighty-four percent of the respondents were full time employed; ninety-one percent of the working respondents were employed at jobs where they worked forty hours or more; sixty percent resided 0-10 miles from their jobs; approximately seventy-eight percent were earning $15,000 or more; eighty-six percent stated that they were satisfied with their employment; and approximately sixty percent of the respondents are working in the trade area for which they received training while attending Middlesex County Vocational and Technical high schools. It was concluded that no major changes need to be made in the vocational and technical high school programs as now offered in Middlesex County. (JH)

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AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

A Twenty-five Year Follow-up Study

of

Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School

Graduates of the Class of 1953

By

William Rogers

and

Dr. J. Henry Zanzalari, Superintendent

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

112 Rues Lane *East Brunswick, N. J.*

After Twenty-five Years is a twenty-five year follow-up study of Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School graduates, Class of 1953. Financial support for this project was provided by Dr. William Wenzel, Assistant Commissioner of Education, Division of Vocational Education and Career Preparation, New Jersey Department of Education, Project SREG 001.

F O R E W O R D

An increasing number of older out-of-school youth and young adults are unemployed because they lack the training needed for the jobs which are available in the skilled trades and technical occupations. Many people believe that vocational and technical education has much to contribute to the solution of this problem.

Naturally, the acid test of the quality of a vocational and technical education program is placement of students in the occupations for which they receive instruction. The Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools have always taken a great interest in the success of their graduates and have made continuous follow-up studies. The After Twenty-Five Years study is a prime example of this interest.

From the standpoint of vocational and technical education the findings can be interpreted as a success story for this type of high school education. Not only does the fact that a substantial majority of the graduates available for employment and still working at the trades or occupations for which trained, indicate the establishment of specialized vocational-technical education such as offered in the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools, but the very favorable reaction of the graduates to their training after twenty-five years service attests to the quality of the training given.

Mr. William Rogers of the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools, deserves a great credit and a special word of appreciation for conducting this study and for following up each graduate with patient persistence in order to secure these data.

J. Henry Zanzalari
Superintendent

January, 1979

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CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to follow-up the Class of 1953, graduating from the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools, located in New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, and Woodbridge, New Jersey, in order to determine the occupational, education, marital, and armed forces experiences of these graduates during the time period June 1953 - June 1978. It was further proposed to compare this twenty-five year study with a previous ten year follow-up study of the Class of 1953. It was hoped that the collected evidence would give insight into the instruction received at the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools, thus assisting the school district in its constant educational evaluation. It was further expected that this study would alleviate partially the recognized void in follow-up research in industrial and technical education.

B. Characteristics of the Schools

In 1953 the three Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools were fully approved by the New Jersey State Department of Education as four-year vocational and technical high schools. This approval had been granted in 1950. Interestingly, the Class of 1953 was the first group of students who

entered the ninth grade in the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools knowing they would receive a high school diploma upon graduation from the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools.

The graduates met all of the academic requirements for a New Jersey high school diploma. They also received vocational or technical training in one of sixteen trades or occupations. In 1953 the school at New Brunswick had an enrollment of 448 students in nine vocational/technical programs; the Perth Amboy school enrolled 337 students in seven vocational/technical programs; and the Woodbridge school had an enrollment of 232 students in five vocational programs.

In addition to the programs leading to a high school diploma, the district also had students enrolled in one, two, and three year certificate programs.

For the purpose of this study, only those individuals who received a high school diploma have been surveyed.

C. Population - The Class of 1953

The high school graduates of the Class of 1953 were enrolled in the following occupational programs:

Technical Programs	Number of Graduates: New Brunswick	Perth Amboy	Woodbridge	Total
Industrial Electricity	3	12	-	15
Industrial Chemistry	-	1	-	1
Machine Drawing	6	2	-	8
TOTAL TECHNICAL	9	15	-	24
Vocational Programs				
Auto Mechanics	9	-	-	9
Beauty Culture	-	-	5	5
Carpentry and Cabinetmaking	10	11	-	21
Commercial Foods	-	-	1	1
Machine Shop	12	7	-	19
Plumbing	4	-	-	4
Practical Nursing	-	-	9	9
Sheet Metal	-	3	-	3
Trade Dressmaking	-	-	9	9
Upholstery	4	-	-	4
TOTAL VOCATIONAL	39	21	24	84
GRAND TOTAL	48	36	24	108

D. Sources of Data

Due to the twenty-five year interval since the graduation of the Class of 1953, the initial problem was the location of the members of the class. In order to accomplish this goal,

various sources were utilized. These sources included members of the graduating class, former teachers and administrators of the graduates, friends and relatives of the graduates, labor unions, industry and business contacts, street directories and telephone directories. The result of the search was a high degree of accomplishment since 104 of 108 graduates, or 96.3 percent of the graduates, were located. In order to collect data, a questionnaire was utilized. Two separate mailings of the same questionnaire were sent in February 1978 and March 1978. This method was augmented through the use of telephone calls, home visitations, and industrial visitations.

In total, 101 questionnaires were mailed. This reduced amount was due to the fact that two members of the class were deceased at the time of the study, and one member was physically disabled a short time after the graduation and was never able to work. The final tally of returns was 94 responses, or 93 percent of the questionnaires mailed as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. - Number of Respondents to the Questionnaire

	New Brunswick	Perth Amboy	Woodbridge	Total
Number of graduates	48	36	24	108
Graduates located	46	35	23	104
Questionnaires mailed	45	33	23	101
Number of responses	43	30	21	94
Percentage of responses	96	91	91	93

CHAPTER II

LIVING DATA, 1953-1978

A. Current Residence, 1953-1978

The survey attempted to ascertain the residential patterns of the graduates during the time period 1953-1978. After twenty-five years the graduates were found to be living in numerous states, including California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, Maine, Nevada, Missouri, Michigan, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, New York, and of course, New Jersey. The majority of the graduates living in New Jersey were living in Middlesex County, New Jersey where they had lived and were educated in 1953. Table 2 gives the current residential data concerning the graduates of the Class of 1953.

The study revealed that 57 percent of the graduates from the three schools presently reside in Middlesex County, with 69 percent of the Perth Amboy Vo-Tech graduates living within Middlesex County; 50 percent of the New Brunswick Vo-Tech graduates; and 52 percent of the Woodbridge graduates. Additionally, it was found that 75 percent of all graduates are still within the boundaries of New Jersey. This figure included 76 percent of New Brunswick Vo-Tech graduates; 86 percent of the Perth Amboy Vo-Tech graduates; and 56 percent of the Woodbridge graduates.

The overall result demonstrated that Middlesex County and the State of New Jersey benefited through the choice of a high percentage of graduates deciding to utilize their acquired skills as part of Middlesex County and New Jersey labor forces.

TABLE 2. - Current Residence of Graduates, 1978

	School Attended							
Residence	New Brunswick	%	Perth Amboy	%	Wood-bridge	%	Total	%
In Middlesex County	23	50	24	69	12	52	59	57
In New Jersey but not Middlesex County	12	26	6	17	1	4	19	18
Out of State	10	22	4	11	10	44	24	23
Deceased	1	2	1	3	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	46	100	35	100	23	100	104	100

TABLE 3. - Middlesex County Residence of New Brunswick School Graduates, 1953 and 1978

Middlesex County Community	1953	1978
Cranbury	1	1
Dunellen	1	0
East Brunswick	3	2
Edison	1	2
Helmetta	1	0
Jamesburg	3	2
Metuchen	3	0
Middlesex	2	1
Milltown	1	1
New Brunswick	8	1
North Brunswick	1	1
Old Bridge	1	2
Perth Amboy	1	0
Piscataway	1	4
Sayreville	1	2
South Plainfield	2	2
South River	4	0
Spotswood	2	0
Woodbridge	1	2
TOTAL GRADUATES	38	23

TABLE 4. - Residence of New Brunswick School Graduates in New Jersey, But Not Middlesex County 1953 and 1978

New Jersey Community But Not Middlesex County	1953	1978
Belle Meade	0	2
Bound Brook	2	1
Englishtown	1	1
Linden	1	0
Manville	1	3
Martinsville	2	0
Pittstown	0	1
Skillman	0	1
Somerset	0	2
Somerville	2	0
Warren	1	1
TOTAL	10	12

TABLE 5. - Out of State Residence of New Brunswick School Graduates, 1953 and 1978

Community, Out of State	1953	1978
Bradenton, Florida	0	1
Burke, Virginia	0	1
Citrus Heights, California	0	1
DeLand, Florida	0	1
Gallatin, Tennessee	0	1
Hollywood, Florida	0	2
Littleton, Colorado	0	1
New Orleans, Louisiana	0	1
Stuarts Draft, Virginia	0	1
TOTAL	0	10

TABLE 6. - Middlesex County Residence of Perth Amboy School Graduates 1953 and 1978

Middlesex County Community	1953	1978
Avenel	1	0
Carteret	2	2
Cliffwood Beach	1	2
Edison	0	2
Fords	1	1
Hopelawn	2	0
Iselin	1	0
Laurence Harbor	1	0
Metuchen	0	1
Parlin	0	1
Perth Amboy	21	7
Port Reading	0	1
Sewaren	2	1
South Amboy	2	5
Woodbridge	2	1
TOTAL	36	24

TABLE 7. - Residence of Perth Amboy School Graduates in New Jersey but not Middlesex County, 1953 and 1978

New Jersey Community but not Middlesex County	1953	1978
Englishtown	0	1
Lebanon	0	1
Matawan	0	1
Oakhurst	0	1
Ringoes	0	1
Warren	0	1
TOTAL	0	6

TABLE 8. Out of State Residence of Perth Amboy School Graduates, 1953 and 1978

Community, Out of State	1953	1978
Las Vegas, Nevada	0	1
Marysville, Ohio	0	1
Pownal, Maine	0	1
St. Petersburg Beach, Florida	0	1
TOTAL	0	4

TABLE 9. - Middlesex County Residence of Woodbridge School Graduates, 1953 and 1978

Middlesex County Community	1953	1978
Colonia	1	0
Dunellen	1	0
Edison	1	1
Jamesburg	2	1
Milltown	1	1
New Brunswick	6	4
Perth Amboy	3	1
Piscataway	3	1
Sayreville	0	1
South Amboy	1	0
South Plainfield	1	0
Spotswood	2	1
Woodbridge	0	1
TOTAL	22	12

TABLE 10. - Residence of Woodbridge School Graduates in New Jersey but not Middlesex County, 1953 and 1978

New Jersey Community but not Middlesex County	1953	1978
Hightstown	1	0
Rahway	1	0
Somerset	0	1
TOTAL	2	1

TABLE 11. - Out of State Residence of Woodbridge School Graduates, 1953 and 1978

Community, Out of State	1953	1978
Avoca, Pennsylvania	0	1
Brooksville, Florida	0	1
Canandaugua, New York	0	1
Detroit, Michigan	0	1
Huntington Beach, California	0	1
St. Charles, Missouri	0	1
St. Petersburg, Florida	0	1
Sheridan, Wyoming	0	1
Tampa, Florida	0	1
Truxton, New York	0	1
TOTAL	0	10

B. Migration Patterns, 1953-1978

The longevity of the graduates in regards to their residence within Middlesex County reveals that more than half of the respondents (51 percent) have not left the county during the twenty-five year period except for time spent in the military service. A total of 59 percent of the class have lived within the county at least 20 years since graduation and 66 percent have lived in the county for at least 15 years.

The three percentages are increased when consideration is given to the fact that 10 respondents did not live in Middlesex County during their high school years or since that time. These individuals came from Somerset County, New Jersey at a time when that county did not have a vocational school. The reworked percentages are 57 percent at the 25 year level, 67 percent at the 20 year level, and 74 percent at the 15 year level. This data appears to prove that what Middlesex County trained, Middlesex County kept.

TABLE 12. - Number of Years Graduates Lived in Middlesex County

Total Years Lived in Middlesex County	New Brunswick	Perth Amboy	Woodbridge	Total
25	19	18	9	46
24	-	-	1	1
23	-	2	1	3
22	-	1	-	1
21	2	-	-	2
20	-	-	1	1
19	-	1	1	2
18	-	1	1	2
17	-	-	-	0
16	-	-	-	0
15	1	1	-	2
14	1	-	-	1
13	-	1	-	1
12	1	-	1	2
11	-	-	-	0
10	1	-	1	2
9	-	-	-	0
8	-	2	1	3
7	2	-	-	2
6	1	-	1	2
5	-	1	-	1
4	2	-	1	3
3	2	-	-	2
2	1	-	-	1
1	-	-	1	1
Less than 1 yr.	-	-	-	0
Never	10*	-	-	10
	43	28**	20***	91

* These students came originally from Somerset County at a time when that county did not have a vocational school

** Residences and time at each not clearly defined by two individuals.

*** Residences and time at each not clearly defined by one individual

TABLE 13. - Migration Patterns of Graduates, 1953-1978

	In County				Not in County but in NJ				Out of State			
	NB	PA	W	T	NB	PA	W	T	NB	PA	W	T
1953	32[a]	29[b]	20[d]	81	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
1954	31	29	19	79	11	0	0	11	0	0	1	1
1955	30	28	18	76	12	1	1	14	0	0	1	1
1956	30	28	18	76	12	1	1	14	0	0	1	1
1957	29	28	18	75	12	1	1	14	1	0	1	2
1958	26	28[c]	18	72	12	0	0	12	4	0	2	6
1959	26	27	16	69	12	1	0	13	4	0	4	8
1960	27	26	16	69	12	2	1	15	3	0	3	6
1961	25	24	15	64	12	3	1	16	5	1	4	10
1962	25	24	15	64	12	3	1	16	5	1	4	10
1963	25	25	14	64	12	2	1	15	5	1	5	11
1964	23	25	15	63	13	2	1	16	6	1	4	11
1965	22	25	14	61	13	2	1	16	7	1	5	13
1966	22	25	14	61	13	2	1	16	7	1	5	13
1967	22	25	14	61	14	2	0	16	7	1	6	14
1968	21	23	14	58	14	3	0	17	8	2	6	16
1969	21	23	14	58	15	3	0	18	7	2	6	15
1970	22	22	15	59	13	4	0	17	8	2	5	15
1971	22	21	14	57	13	5	0	18	8	2	6	16
1972	23	20	13	56	11	5	0	16	9	3	7	19
1973	23	20	12	55	10	5	1	16	10	3	7	20
1974	22	20	12	54	11	4	1	16	10	4	7	21
1975	22	19	12	53	11	4	1	16	10	5	7	22
1976	22	19	11	52	11	4	1	16	10	5	8	23
1977	22	19	11	52	11	5	1	17	10	4	8	22
1978	22	19	10	51	11	5	1	17	10	4	9	23

a. One individual did not clearly define location during period 1954-1966.

b. No specific data given by one individual

c. No data clearly defined after 1957 in one instance.

d. Address not clearly defined by one individual.

According to the survey, 64 members of the class, or 70 percent, moved less than three times during the twenty-five year period. In fact, 13 individuals (14 percent) of the respondents cited only one address during the twenty-five years, while 23 (25 percent) graduates listed two addresses and 28 (31 percent) named three addresses. The mean for the entire group of respondents was 3.01 addresses with a range from 1 - 8 addresses.

TABLE 14. - Number of Addresses of Graduates Since Graduation

Number of Addresses	New Brunswick	Perth Amboy	Woodbridge	Total
1	8	2	3	13
2	10	8	5	23
3	17	8	3	28
4	4	7	1	12
5	1	3	5	9
6	0	1	2	3
7	1	0	0	1
8	1	1	0	2
Insufficient Data	1	0	2	3
TOTAL	43	30	21	94

C. Marital Status, 1953-1978

The graduates, in response to an inquiry concerning marital status indicated that 87 percent of the respondents were presently married. The mean number of years was a minimum of 17.7

years of marriage for Perth Amboy graduates and a maximum of 20.6 years for Woodbridge graduates. The range was six years to twenty-five years.

The size of their families ranged from no children to eight children. Eighty-two graduates indicated that they have children, totaling 226 children or a mean of 2.79 per parenting graduate. This statistic also takes into account that a graduate from New Brunswick and a graduate from Woodbridge are husband and wife.

TABLE 15. - Marital Status of Graduates, 1978

Marital Status	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	Total	%
Single	1	2	3	10	1	5	5	5
Married	37	86	27	90	18	85	82	87
Divorced/Separated	5	12	0	-	1	5	6	7
Widowed	0	-	0	-	1	5	1	1
Respondents	43	100	30	100	21	100	94	100
Marriage range	6-24 yrs.		6-22 yrs.		12-25 yrs.			
Presently married mean	18.1 yrs.		17.7 yrs.		20.6 yrs.			

TABLE 16. - Years When Graduates Were Married

	N. Brunswick			Perth Amboy			Woodbridge			Total		
	N	CN	C%	N	CN	C%	N	CN	C%	N	CN	C%
1952	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	1	1	1
1953	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	4	19	4	5	5
1954	3	4	9	-	-	-	3	7	33	6	11	12
1955	1	5	12	2	2	7	5	12	57	8	19	20
1956	8	13	30	1	3	10	3	15	71	12	31	33
1957	5	18	42	5	8	27	2	17	81	12	43	46
1958	2	20	47	4	12	40	-	17	81	6	49	52
1959	4	24	56	5	17	57	1	18	86	10	59	63
1960	3	27	63	3	20	67	-	18	86	6	67	69
1961	3	30	70	1	21	70	-	18	86	4	69	73
1962	1	31	72	1	22	73	-	18	86	2	71	76
1963	1	32	74	-	22	73	-	18	86	1	72	77
1964	1	33	77	1	23	77	-	18	86	2	74	79
1965	1	34	79	-	23	77	1	19	90	2	76	81
1966	1	35	81	-	23	77	-	19	90	1	77	82
1967	1	35	81	1	24	80	-	19	90	1	78	83
1968	1	35	81	1	24	80	-	19	90	-	78	83
1969	1	36	84	1	24	80	-	19	90	1	79	84
1970	1	36	84	1	24	80	-	19	90	-	79	84
1971	1	37	85	1	25	83	-	19	90	2	81	86

1971 was the last year anyone was married

TABLE 17. - Number of Children, 1978

No. of Children	NB	PA	W	Total
0	2	3	1	6
1	5	2	2	9
2	10	10	8	28
3	14	6	5	25
4	5	6	2	13
5	3	0	2	5
6	1	0	0	1
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	1	1
Total having children	38	24	20	82
Total number of children	108	64	54	226

	NB	PA	W	Combined
mean (per married graduate)	2.57	2.37	2.81	2.60
only those having children	2.70	2.67	2.95	2.79
range	0-6	0-4	0-8	0-8

CHAPTER III

MILITARY EXPERIENCE, 1953-1978

Graduates from each of the three schools participated in some form of military service. The Perth Amboy graduates led the way with a participation level of 83 percent, while New Brunswick and Woodbridge graduates indicated levels of 67 percent and 10 percent respectively. Approximately 59 percent of the 56 graduates who had been in the military served in the Army. Fifty graduates, or 89 percent, had spent some time on active duty, with the majority indicating a service term of two years.

While serving in the Army the vocational training of one practical nursing graduate from Woodbridge was almost utilized in a very notable fashion, as mentioned in the following quote: Practical Nurse W, "I was chosen to be then President Eisenhower's private nurse, but, by the time I was assigned, he was well enough to go back to the Capitol."

TABLE 18. - Number of Graduates in Each Branch of Service

Branch of Service	NB	PA	W	Total
Army	17	14	2	33
Navy	5	3	0	8
Marine Corps	1	4	0	5
National Guard	3	0	0	3
Naval Reserve	1	1	0	2
Air Force	2	2	0	4
Army Reserve	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	29	25	2	56

TABLE 19. - Years of Full-Time Experience in Military Service

No. of Years in Service	NB	PA	W	Total
1	2	1	-	3
2	15	10	2	27
3	2	6	-	8
4	3	6	-	9
5	1	-	-	1
6	1	-	-	1
7	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	-
10 or over	1	-	-	1
	25	23	2	50

TABLE 20. - Military Experience of Graduates, 1953-1978

Branch of Service	Worked in Trade		Worked not in Trade	
	Number	%	Number	%
Army	7	23	24	77
Navy	5	63	3	37
Air Force	-	-	4	100
Marine Corps	3	60	2	40
National Guard	-	-	3	100
Naval Reserve	1	50	1	50
	16	30	37	70

TABLE 21. - Service Utilization of Training

Shop Studied in School	Worked in Trade Studied Branch of Service				Worked out of Trade Branch of Service					
	Marines	Navy	Army	Naval Reserve	Marines	Navy	Army	Air Force	Natl. Guard	Naval Reserve
AM	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
MS	1	2	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	0
PN	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CC	1	0	1	0	1	2	7	0	1	0
EL	1	1	2	0	0	0	6	1	0	0
DR	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
PL	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
SM	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
BC	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Chem.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Uphol.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

The highest rank in Service for the graduates are indicated by the following:

Army	Sergeant First Class	1
	Sergeant	2
	Specialist Five	1
	Specialist Four	4
	Corporal	7
	Private First Class	13
	Specialist Three	2
Navy	Petty Officer First Class	1
	Petty Officer Second Class	1
	Machinist Mate Second Class	1
	Pipefitter Second Class	1
	Machinist Mate Third Class	1
	Petty Officer Third Class	1
	Machinist Mate	1
	Seaman	1
Marine Corps	Sergeant	3
	Corporal	2
Air Force	Lieutenant	1
	Sergeant	1
	Airman First Class	1
Naval Reserve	Petty Officer Second Class	2
National Guard	Sergeant	1
	Specialist Three	1
	Private First Class	1
Army Reserve	No information	

CHAPTER IV

EXPERIENCE OF GRADUATES, 1953-1978

Twenty-five years after graduation, eighty respondents of the Class of 1953 were employed on a full-time basis. This represented 84 percent of the graduates that answered the questionnaire. The remainder of the group were in the following categories: working part time by choice, full time college student, housewife, permanently disabled, or retired. The one retiree had done so well in business that he retired in 1974. No person who was available for work was unemployed.

TABLE 22. - Employment Status of Graduates, 1978

Status	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	Total	%
Working full time	41	96	29	94	10	48	80	84
Working part time	0	-	0	-	4	19	4	4
Full time student	1	2	0	-	0	-	1	1
Housewife	0	-	0	-	7	33	7	7
*Self-employed	6	14	2	7	1	5	9	10
Retired	1	2	0	-	0	-	1	1
Permanently disabled	0	-	2	6	0	-	2	2
TOTAL	43	100	31	100	21	100	95	100

*Not included in total

Ninety-one percent of the working respondents were employed at jobs where they worked approximately 40 hours or more per week. An additional five percent had professions where their normal full-time week was less than 35 hours.

TABLE 23. - Hours Per Week Worked by the Graduates

Hours Per Week	NB	PA	W	Total
Less than 20	0	0	1	1
20-24	0	0	3	3
25-29	0	0	0	0
30-34	1	1	2	4
35-40	23	15	7	45
More than 40	17	13	1	31
TOTAL	41	29	14	84

The graduates tended to live within easy commuting distance of their places of employment. In fact, 60 percent stated that they resided from 0 - 10 miles from their jobs. Only 2 percent had a long distance to travel. Further information may be found in Table 24.

TABLE 24. - Distance Traveled by Graduates from Home to Work

Distance (Miles)	NB	PA	W	Total
0-10	27	14	9	50
11-25	12	12	3	27
26-50	1	2	1	4
More than 50	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	41	29	13	83

TABLE 25. - Annual Earnings of Graduates, 1978

Annual Earnings $	NB	PA	W	Total
Less than 5,000	0	0	6	6
5,000 - 7,499	0	0	1	1
7,500 - 9,999	0	0	2	2
10,000 - 14,999	4	3	2	9
15,000 - 19,999	20	8	0	28
20,000 - 24,999	12	13	0	25
25,000 and above	5	4	1	10
No data given	0	1	2	3
TOTAL	41	29	14	84

Fifty-two percent of the employed respondents were being paid on an hourly basis. Five percent did not fit into either category due to special circumstances, such as pay based on commission.

TABLE 26. - Number of Hourly or Salaried Graduates, 1978

Status	NB	PA	W	Total
Hourly	22	14	8	44
Salaried	17	14	5	36
N / A	2	1	1	4
TOTAL	41	29	14	84

When asked to express satisfaction or dissatisfaction concerning their present jobs, 86 percent stated that they liked their employment, with 67 percent indicating a high degree of

satisfaction. Only three percent did not like their present jobs, with just one person expressing extreme unhappiness with the employment situation.

TABLE 27. - Present Job Satisfaction of Graduates, 1978

Status	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	Total	%
Like very much	26	64	19	66	11	79	56	67
Like somewhat	10	24	5	17	1	7	16	19
Neither like nor dislike	3	7	5	17	0	-	8	10
Dislike somewhat	2	5	0	-	0	-	2	2
Dislike very much	0	-	0	-	1	7	1	1
No comment	0	-	0	-	1	7	1	1
	41	100	29	100	14	100	84	100

During the twenty-five year interval since graduation, the respondents have experienced very minimal unemployment, even when the country was experiencing an economic depression with the accompanying high levels of joblessness.

Almost all of the male graduates were available for employment during the entire period. The exception occurred from 1954 through 1958 when a number were serving in the military services. The peak was reached in 1957 when 25 individuals responded to their country's call. The other factor that reduced the availability of the males was the permanent disability of two graduates, one in 1953 and the other in 1968, and the retirement of one New Brunswick graduate in 1974. In 1978 another

person was taken from the job market when he entered the seminary to study for the ministry.

The Woodbridge graduates were available for employment in large numbers only for the first three or four years following graduating. After that time a range from 7 to 12 were concerned with their full-time household duties. Additionally, two women served in the military services during 1957 and 1958.

The peak was reached in 1973 when 82 respondents were "available for employment". This was followed very closely by the second highest peak of 80 persons in 1953, 1962-68, 1971, 1974, and 1976-78. The fluctuations were caused primarily by the individuals who entered and left the military services and the women who left or re-entered the job market, depending upon family responsibilities. The smallest amount of graduates were available for employment during the period 1956-1957, due primarily to military service.

The full twenty-five year employment picture may be found in Table 28.

TABLE 28. - Graduates not Available for Employment During the Period 1953-1978

Year	Armed Services				Full-Time School				House-wife		Re-tired		Dis-abled		Totals			
	NB	PA	W	T	NB	PA	W	T	W	T	NB	T	PA	T	NB	PA	W	T
1953	4	5	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	4	6	1	11
1954	9	10	-	19	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	9	11	1	21
1955	13	10	-	23	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	13	11	3	27
1956	15	11	-	26	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	1	1	15	12	5	32
1957	14	11	2	27	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	1	1	14	12	7	33
1958	10	11	2	23	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	1	1	10	12	9	31
1959	5	4	-	9	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	1	1	5	5	10	20
1960	1	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	1	1	1	4	10	15
1961	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	11	11	-	-	1	1	1	2	11	14
1962	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	-	1	1	1	1	9	11
1963	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	-	1	1	1	1	9	11
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	1	1	-	1	10	11
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	1	1	-	1	10	11
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	1	1	-	1	10	11
1967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	-	-	1	1	-	1	12	13
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	-	-	2	2	-	2	12	14
1969	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11	-	-	2	2	-	2	11	13
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	2	2	-	2	10	12
1971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	-	2	2	-	2	9	11
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	2	2	-	2	10	12
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	2	2	-	2	7	9
1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	1	1	2	2	1	2	8	11
1975	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	1	1	2	2	1	2	9	12
1976	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	1	1	2	2	1	2	8	11
1977	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	1	1	2	2	1	2	8	11
1978	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	7	7	1	1	2	2	2	2	7	11

TABLE 29. - Graduates Available for Full-Time Employment, 1953-1978

Year	NB	PA	W	Total	% of Responses
1953	38	25	17	80	87
1954	33	20	17	70	76
1955	29	20	15	64	70
1956	27	19	13	59	64
1957	28	19	11	58	63
1958	32	19	9	60	65
1959	37	26	8	71	77
1960	41	27	8	76	83
1961	41	29	7	77	84
1962	41	30	9	80	87
1963	41	30	9	80	87
1964	42	30	8	80	87
1965	42	30	8	80	87
1966	42	30	8	80	87
1967	42	30	6	78	85
1968	42	29	6	77	84
1969	42	29	7	78	85
1970	42	29	8	79	86
1971	42	29	9	80	87
1972	42	29	8	79	86
1973	42	29	11	82	89
1974	41	29	10	80	87
1975	41	29	9	79	86
1976	41	29	10	80	87
1977	41	29	10	80	87
1978	40	29	11	80	87

After a period of twenty-five years, approximately 60 percent of the responding graduates, who are available for employment, are working in trade area for which they received training while attending Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools. The early years of the employment record are subject to much more deviation due to the probable inaccuracies in recall. A complete charting may be seen in Table 30.

TABLE 30. - Placement Record of Graduates, 1953-1978

	No. Available for Employment				No. Working in Trade or Related to Trade				% Working in Trade or Related to Trade			
Year	NB	PA	W	T	NB	PA	W	T	NB	PA	W	T
1953	38	25	17	80	26	14	14	54	68	56	82	68
1954	33	20	17	70	20	13	13	46	61	65	76	66
1955	29	20	15	64	16	12	11	39	55	60	73	61
1956	27	19	13	59	16	13	9	38	59	68	69	64
1957	28	19	11	58	16	13	6	35	57	68	55	51
1958	32	19	9	60	19	13	5	37	59	68	56	62
1959	37	26	8	71	22	16	5	43	59	62	63	61
1960	41	27	8	76	23	16	5	44	56	59	63	58
1961	41	29	7	77	22	19	4	45	54	66	57	58
1962	41	30	9	80	22	20	4	46	54	67	44	58
1963	41	30	9	80	22	21	5	48	54	70	56	60
1964	42	30	8	80	23	20	5	48	55	67	63	60
1965	42	30	8	80	24	19	5	48	57	63	63	60
1966	42	30	8	80	23	19	5	47	55	63	63	59
1967	42	30	6	78	24	19	3	46	57	63	50	59
1968	42	29	6	77	26	18	3	47	62	62	50	61
1969	42	29	7	78	25	18	3	46	60	62	43	59
1970	42	29	8	79	24	18	3	45	57	62	38	57
1971	42	29	9	80	24	18	3	45	57	62	33	56
1972	42	29	8	79	24	18	3	45	57	62	38	57
1973	42	29	11	82	22	18	5	45	52	62	45	55
1974	41	29	10	80	22	18	5	45	54	62	50	56
1975	41	29	9	79	22	18	5	45	54	62	56	57
1976	41	29	10	80	21	18	5	44	54	62	50	55
1977	41	29	10	80	20	18	4	42	49	62	40	53
1978	40	29	11	80	25	18	4	47	63	62	36	59

The job history of the respondents was very admirable and demonstrated a high degree of loyalty to a relatively small amount of employers. Fifteen percent of the individuals have worked for one company since their graduation. A total of 61 percent have not had more than three employers in a twenty-five year period. Additionally, 17 percent stated that they worked for only four companies.

The minimum number of places of outside employment was 0 as one woman indicated that her entire profession was housewife. The maximum number of jobs was 9 which were held by one person. The overall average was just in excess of three jobs per responding graduate.

TABLE 31. - Job History of Graduates, 1978

No. of Jobs	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	T	%
0	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	1
1	9	21	3	10	2	10	14	15
2	6	14	7	24	5	25	18	20
3	7	16	8	28	9	45	24	26
4	8	19	6	21	2	10	16	17
5	9	21	2	7	-	-	11	12
6	2	5	3	10	-	-	5	6
7	1	2	-	-	1	5	2	2
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
No data	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
	43		30		21		94	
Range	1-9		1-6		0-7		0-9	
Mean	3.40		3.21		2.84		3.15	

Employer Satisfaction

It was ascertained that a questionnaire or interviews would be useless as a means of determining employer satisfaction with the graduates of the Class of 1953. Too many variables were present to allow for an accurate appraisal, including a possible lack of full knowledge concerning each employee who worked for a given employer.

As a means to obtain a certain degree of accuracy in regard to employer satisfaction, it was determined that such objective data as longevity and/or advancement while working for an employer should demonstrate some of the feelings of the employer concerning the employment record of the employee.

Additionally, it is assumed that self-employed individuals who have been in business for an extended period of time must have obtained a high degree of esteem in order to maintain their business interests.

An examination of the responses concerning longevity with one employer revealed the following data:

Years of Employment	Number of Individuals	
	Frequency	Cumulative Frequency
24	8	8
23	1	9
22	3	12
21	2	14
20	2	16
19	3	19
18	1	20
17	3	23
16	1	24
15	0	24
14	1	25
13	2	27
12	1	28
11	1	29
10	3	32

Self-employed Longevity

22 years	VP in charge of tooling (MS)
19 years	Carpenter (CC)
17 years	Upholsterer (UPH)
17 years	Cabinet Shop (CC)
12 years	General Contractor (CC)

In the area of advancement within their fields of study, several members of the Class of 1953 have progressed upward in responsibility with much distinction. One graduate from the Industrial Electricity program has risen from a lineman with New Jersey Bell to a supervisory position, while another started with his employer as a relayman and is presently a senior staff engineer.

A former student in the Industrial Chemistry program is an important part of his company's chemical research department

and has developed many pieces of apparatus that are utilized by the company. The inventive genius is not confined to just one person, since another graduate of the machine drafting program has progressed to his present job of design engineer. He is also the holder of several patents.

Supervisory jobs are also held by numerous other graduates, including one graduate from the carpentry program, one from the machine drafting program, and six from the machine shop program. Additionally, one former student of carpentry is presently in charge of manufacturing for a cabinet manufacturer.

A graduate from the machine shop program who holds a master's degree is an administrator in a school district vocational education department, where he is in charge of various vocational shop programs.

When the number of presently employed respondents (80) is taken into consideration, the longevity and promotion figures are high. This includes 32 with 10 or more years service, 24 individuals with 15 or more, and 16 individuals with 20 or more years service; 5 individuals who have remained self-employed for at least 12 years; and 41 individuals who have advanced in their employment to supervisory positions.

Comparison of 10 Year Study and 25 Year Study

	June 1963				May 1978			
Working Full Time	69 percent (67)				84 percent (80)			
Number per school		NB 38	PA 23	W 6		NB 41	PA 29	W 10
Percentage per school		85	72	69		96	94	48
Housewives	twelve				seven			
In Business for Self	eleven				nine			
Number per school		5	6	0		6	2	1
Percentage per school		11	19	0		14	7	5
Unemployed	two				zero			
Permanently Disabled	one				two			
Working in Trade (Employed Full Time)	60 percent				59 percent			
Number per school		27	18	3		25	18	4
Percentage per school		61	60	50		63	62	36
Range of Wages	$2.40 per hour - $5.00 per hour $4,992 - $10,400				Less than $5,000 - above $25,000			
Average Wages	Mean: 2.80 or $5,824				Median: PA: $20,000 NB: $18,437 W: $ 7,708			

(cont'd)

Comparison of 10 Year Study and 25 Year Study (Cont'd)

	June 1963	May 1978
In Trade Job Turnover	2.2 Jobs	2.63 Jobs
Out of Trade Job Turnover	3.2 Jobs	3.42 Jobs
Working in Trade with Categories of Foreman or Supervisor	25 percent	30 percent - not including self employed 40 percent - including self employed
Married	83 percent	87 percent
Children	eighty-seven	two hundred twenty six
School of parent	NB 40 PA 24 W 19	NB 106 PA 64 W 54
Mean	two children	2.6 children
Lived in County Entire Time	75 percent	51 percent
Presently Living in County		57 percent presently in county
By Sex	Males - 80 percent Females - 57 percent	Males - 59 percent Females - 52 percent

CHAPTER V

FURTHER EDUCATION

In the area of further education, seventeen respondents (18%) indicated that they had attended college at one time or another. One graduate is presently enrolled as a full-time seminary student. Of the group, three individuals had received baccalaureate degrees and one person held a masters degree as well. Two additional people were awarded associate degrees from community colleges. Other formal education included two graduates from business schools, one graduate from a technical institute, and four individuals indicated that they continued their education by participating in evening class at one of the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools. More specific data are found in Table 32.

TABLE 32. - Further Education of Graduates, 1978

Status	N. Brunswick Atten.	Grad.	Perth Amboy Atten.	Grad.	Woodbridge Atten.	Grad.	Total Atten.	Grad.
College	7	1	8	2	2	0	17	3
More than one college	4	-	2	-	1	-	7	-
Community College	1	-	2	2	-	-	3	2
Business School	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
Technical Institute	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Adult courses in Voc. School	3	3	-	-	2	2	5	5
Industrial Training	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Correspondence courses	3	3	2	1	-	-	5	4

TABLE 33. - Retraining of Graduates

Status	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	Total	%
Number retrained	20	47	10	40	8	38	38	41
Working in new field	20	100	10	92	8	100	38	97

The survey indicated that 41 percent of the graduates had undergone some form of retraining, though in a few instances the new area of study was somewhat related to the original shop studied

in high school. Of the retrained group, 97 percent have been employed in their "new" field of endeavor, but some have gone back to their original area of study.

TABLE 33a - Year Retraining of Graduates Occurred

Year	NB	PA	W	Total
1951	1	-	-	1
1952	-	-	-	-
1953	3	1	-	4
1954	1	-	-	1
1955	-	-	-	-
1956	-	-	-	-
1957	1	-	-	1
1958	-	-	-	-
1959	-	-	-	-
1960	2	1	-	3
1961	2	1	-	3
1962	-	-	-	-
1963	-	1	-	1
1964	1	-	2	3
1965	1	2	-	3
1966	2	1	-	3
1967	1	-	-	1
1968	-	-	-	-
1969	1	-	1	2
1970	-	-	1	1
1971	-	1	-	1
1972	-	-	-	-
1973	-	-	1	1
1974	-	1	1	2
1975	-	1	1	2
1976	3	-	-	3
1977	1	-	-	1
1978	-	-	1	1

One of the means of measuring the feelings of a group of graduates toward their education is found in their influence

upon the training of their children. The children of nine graduates have or are presently attending schools in the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School district. The total number of students is 11. In addition, 6 other offspring are or have attended a vocational school in other areas, including Florida. One graduate advised a nephew to attend the same vocational school that he attended, New Brunswick. Numerous graduates also indicated a hope that someday a child of theirs would go to a vocational school.

The following quote cites the attitude of one Industrial Electricity graduate toward his vocational training:

> "I have had the privilege of sharing my experience with my two sons who now have a good command of the trade. One is presently studying at Georgia Tech to become an electrical engineer."

The graduates were asked to rate the following services that they received at the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools: Vocational Instruction, Other Instruction, Vocational Shop, Guidance, and Job Placement. The respondents gave an unusally high rating to the area of Vocational Shop and Vocational Instruction. In both instances, 97 percent of the respondents felt that the training was average or above. Fifty-eight percent gave the Vocational Shop an above average score.

Other instruction was considered to be average by 75 percent of the respondents, while 81 percent looked upon Guidance as average or above. The only area that received a slightly negative rating was Job Placement, where 43 percent rated it as average

and 37 percent felt that it left something to be desired. The results of the survey concerning these services may be found in Tables 34 and 35.

TABLE 34. - Ratings of High School Services by Graduates

Subject	Above Average			Average			Below Average			No Comment		
	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W
Vocational Instruction	18	15	10	22	14	10	2	1	0	1	0	1
Other Instruction	3	3	5	34	19	14	5	6	1	1	2	1
Vocational Shop	26	17	10	15	11	10	1	2	0	1	0	1
Guidance	10	9	6	21	13	13	11	6	0	1	2	2
Job Placement	9	4	4	12	9	14	17	14	1	3	3	2

TABLE 35. - Rating of High School Services by Guidance, 1978

Subject	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No Comment
Voc.Instruction	43	46	3	2
Other Instruction	11	67	12	2
Voc. Shop	53	36	3	2
Guidance	25	47	17	5
Job Placement	17	37	32	8

A summary of responses to assistance given in the areas indicated are shown in Table 36 and Table 37.

TABLE 36. - Rating of Assistance and Training by Guidance, 1978

	Above Avg.			Average			Below Avg.			No Comment		
	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W
Spare time	7	3	8	21	17	10	14	9	3	1	1	0
Health	8	3	10	25	16	10	9	9	1	1	2	0
Community	3	1	2	20	13	12	17	15	7	3	1	0
Marriage	1	2	5	22	11	13	18	15	3	2	2	0
Prep. for work	16	11	11	20	14	9	6	5	1	1	0	0
Getting job	14	6	8	17	11	11	11	9	2	1	4	0
Getting along with others	7	6	8	34	20	12	1	4	1	1	0	0
Further education	1	5	4	23	11	13	17	14	4	2	0	0

TABLE 37. - Rating Assistance and Training by Graduate, 1978

	Above Avg.			Average			Below Avg.			No Comment		
	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W	NB	PA	W
Understanding Abilities	10	5	3	24	20	17	5	5	1	4	0	0
Reading	3	3	4	24	19	15	15	7	1	1	1	1
English	1	2	4	28	18	16	13	9	0	1	1	1
Mathematics	8	8	2	26	17	18	8	5	0	1	0	1
Money	6	2	5	22	11	13	12	16	2	3	1	1
Business	6	3	4	23	9	11	11	17	5	3	1	1
Thinking	10	6	4	29	19	14	3	5	2	1	0	1

The results of this line of questioning demonstrated that the respondents thought that most areas of assistance and training offered by the district were handled in an adequate manner. The highest ratings were given to the preparation for work, getting job, getting along with others, understanding abilities, math, and thinking through problems sections of training. Conversely the respondents felt that education in the areas of community affairs, marriage and family, further education, use of money, and business affairs needed much improvement.

TABLE 38. - Rating Assistance and Training by Graduate, 1978

Subject	Above Avg.	Average	Below Avg.	No Comment
Spare Time	18	48	26	2
Health	21	51	19	3
Community	6	45	39	4
Marriage	8	46	36	4
Prep. for work	38	43	12	1
Getting a job	28	39	22	5
Getting along with others	21	66	6	1
Further education	10	47	35	2
Understanding abilities	18	61	11	4
Reading	10	58	23	3
English	18	61	13	2
Money	13	46	30	5
Business	13	43	33	5
Thinking	20	62	10	2

Of the 94 respondents, 56 or 60 percent indicated that they would study the same vocation or trade if they could repeat their high school education. Thirty-seven would have pursued an alternate area of study. One person gave no comment. A detailed explanation of the replacement plans is found in Table 39.

Though 60 percent of the respondents indicated their continued interest in the area of study of their high school days, it is significant to note that a much higher percentage (84%) thought enough of their training to recommend it for education of other future students if the individuals had a desire for training in the specific fields. A complete breakdown of the data concerning their recommendations is found in Table 40.

TABLE 39. - Would Take Same Shop

Rating	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	Total	%
yes	24	56	18	60	14	67	56	60
no	18	42	12	40	7	33	37	39
NC	1	2	0	-	0	-	1	1

TABLE 40. - Would Recommend Shop for Others

Rating	NB	%	PA	%	W	%	Total	%
yes	37	86	25	83	17	81	79	84
no	6	14	4	14	3	14	13	14
NC	0	-	1	3	1	5	2	2

It is important to note that twelve of the shop areas noted as replacement for the original areas of study were in existence in the district at the time of graduation in 1953. These areas

were mentioned in 28 instances. Two other shop areas that were included were added to the district shop areas at later dates. These areas (Electronics and Welding) were mentioned in three instances.

In only six cases did the respondent select an area of study that is not found in the district, two college prep, one heavy equipment operator, and three who would not attend but gave no data concerning other plans. One graduate indicated that he would have taken something technical but did not specify any particular field of study. Three respondents gave no comment concerning their plans.

TABLE 41. - Replacement Areas

	NB	PA	W	Total
Machine Drawing	3	-	-	3
Electric	2	3	-	5
Plumbing	1	-	-	1
Auto Mechanics	1	1	-	2
Upholstery	1	-	-	1
Machine Shop	3	-	-	3
Carpentry	2	1	-	3
Electronics	1	1	-	2
Welding	1	-	-	1
Sheet Metal	-	1	-	1
Chemistry	-	2	-	2
College Prep	2	-	-	2
Heavy Equipment	1	-	-	1
Something Technical	1	-	-	1
Practical Nursing	-	-	4	4
No comment	2	1	-	3
Would not attend	-	2	1	3
Beauty Culture	-	-	2	2
Trade Dressmaking	-	-	1	1

TABLE 42. - Would Not Take Same Shop

	NB	PA	W	Total
Carpentry	3	2	-	5
Machine Drawing	2	1	-	3
Machine Shop	4	1	-	5
Auto Mechanics	6	-	-	6
Electric	1	6	-	7
Upholstery	2	-	-	2
Sheet Metal	-	2	-	2
Beauty Culture	-	-	1	1
Commercial Foods	-	-	1	1
Practical Nursing	-	-	1	1
Trade Dressmaking	-	-	4	4

The best means of expressing the views of the graduates of the Class of 1953 concerning the education they received is to use their words. The following is a compilation of their comments.

"My vocational training has been more than helpful. There is a great need for trade schools today."

"The school does a great job of training. It is up to the pupil if he wants to learn."

"I feel the school had everything I needed except I could not recognize it at the time, or appreciate what was available to me."

"It helped to have a trade. I got a better job because I went to vocational school. I have no fear if I lose my job as my skilled trade enables me to get another one very quickly."

"The school that I attended helped me fulfill my goal of becoming a beautician, that was what I wanted to be since I was eight years old."

"I was able to build my own home and what I learned I am still reaping benefits."

"I did not get a job right after graduation because I needed more training. Now I know if I lose my job in one place, I won't have a problem to find another one in my field."

"I see in the working world that a trade is a great thing to have. I never had any trouble getting a job and I feel it always was a good paying job. The job I have now is the best job anyone could have and I feel if I didn't have a trade, I wouldn't have it."

"Vocational training played a very important part in my school training. I found it helpful to obtain better employment to help me work my way through college, also, I believe this training was a great help in my maturing and still has a profound influence in my life."

"Enabled me to design and construct heavy duty tow trucks in my past business. Presently using past knowledge in blueprint reading for real estate transactions."

"I learned a trade that I like. It makes the day go by very fast because I like what I do."

"A salable skill is very important and is needed even if a person plans to go to college. This provides reliability on self and allows independence."

"I highly recommend the vocational and technical high school. It has been an excellent starting point for my career."

"I am very glad I attended my school and I was proud both my children had the same opportunity."

"Fine school. It gives you what it takes to go into the world and make your own way. I am self-reliant."

"When my husband was stationed in New London, Connecticut, I applied for a job (PN) in a hospital. To receive a license in the state I had to go to an accredited school and Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School was one of two accredited in New Jersey by Connecticut. I thought this spoke highly of the school."

"I have never regretted my training. I am satisfied being an L.P.N. and never wanted to go any further, as we now have recognition. Thank you for your interest after 25 years."

"Vocational training was the best thing that happened to me. I wish I could personally thank everyone that helped me while I attended the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School."

Suggestions

There were suggestions for improvement. The following is a listing of some of the more meaningful comments.

"I have always felt that the curriculum as it then existed was very helpful. The only suggestion I might consider offering would be in the way of teaching a positive mental attitude to the students. Thereby helping them to know and believe that they can succeed in their chosen field if they really wanted to and were willing to work hard toward that accomplishment."

"I believe a minor shop experience would also prove helpful."

"The school brought in too few people from industry to sell and/or explain their industry."

"I would like to have had more education regarding going into business for myself and managing financial matters."

"Freshman 30 days in each shop was most interesting and helpful for future--recommend extend to 60 days in each shop-- additional knowledge enabled him to apply abilities to other fields. 1) First year of various shops was a big help in everyday life; 2) most advantageous part of the vocational education; 3) first year exploratory helped me most of all in learning other jobs."

Several graduates demonstrated an interest in continuing education as mentioned in the following quotes:

"Needs program in instrumentation; should stress further education."

"There should have been a little more practical application to the job."

"Most valuable is common sense which was taught to me by instructors. Graduates who have made progress due to their training should be exposed to current students in order to answer questions."

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

It has been a real pleasure to follow-up the Class of 1953. Not only was the response most gratifying in terms of numbers but the generally favorable reaction of the graduates toward their schools and the training received was most reassuring. The fact that 91 percent responded indicated that the graduates had a close, friendly and cooperative feeling toward their schools.

From the standpoint of vocational education the findings can be interpreted as a success story for this type of high school education. Not only does the fact that a substantial majority of the graduates available for employment still work at the trades or occupations for which trained, vindicate the establishment of specialized vocational-technical education such as offered in the county vocational schools but the very favorable reaction of the graduates to their training after twenty-five years attests to the quality of the training given.

There has been much said and written about our present vocational education programs being out-of-date and no longer attuned to today's labor market. The testimony of these graduates does not give us any reason to feel that our curriculum has been wrong. Quite the opposite; it is a strong recommendation for more of the same insofar as basic pattern is concerned. Of course our curriculum must be kept up-to-date as technology changes and job patterns

change but this we have always done anyway.

This class represents a good healthy cross-section of the American skilled worker group, not only in terms of employment but also in terms of marriage and family life.

The experiences of the young men in the Armed Forces are typical. They met their obligations as responsible American citizens.

The lack of mobility came as a mild surprise. Perhaps we have been misled by all the talk about people moving around like pieces on a chess-board. At least insofar as this group was concerned there was substantiation for the basic tenet of providing vocational training opportunities in terms of local employment needs.

Such follow-up studies as this are very useful in providing evidence and direction for future planning. Certainly the findings of this study do not indicate that any drastic changes need to be made in the vocational and technical high school programs as now offered in Middlesex County.

APPENDIX A

Administrative Offices

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

112 Rues Lane P.O. Box 220 East Brunswick, N.J. 08816 Telephone (201) 257-3300

Nicholas Friday, President
W. Eugene Butt, Secretary, Business Manager

J. Henry Zanzalari, Superintendent
John S. Altounian, Assistant Superintendent
John Watsha, Director of Adult Education

February 6, 1978

Dear Graduate:

The Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools are conducting a follow-up study of the Class of 1953. The enclosed questionnaire is being utilized to accomplish this project. The responses we receive will assist us in evaluating our school program and making necessary adjustments in our curriculum.

The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes of your time to complete. Most of the questions simply require the placement of a checkmark in the appropriate place. Enclosed you will find an addressed envelope for your convenience.

Your assistance and cooperation in the completion of this study is greatly appreciated. If the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools can assist you, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

William Rogers
Project Director

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YOUR REPLY IS VERY VALUABLE TO US

WR/ml
encl.

Administrative Offices

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

112 Rues Lane P.O. Box 220 East Brunswick, N.J. 08816 Telephone (201) 257-3300

Nicholas Friday, President
W. Eugene Butt, Secretary, Business Manager

J. Henry Zanzalari, Superintendent
John S. Altounian, Assistant Superintendent
John Wetsha, Director of Adult Education

March 13, 1978

Dear Graduate:

Several weeks ago, I mailed you a questionnaire in conjunction with the follow-up study of the class of 1953. The results of this survey will be very valuable in assisting us to reevaluate our school program and make necessary adjustments in our curriculum to satisfy the vocational and educational needs of our students.

To date, your reply has not been received. Will you please complete the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible. Every response is extremely valuable as it affords us a more complete picture upon which we can base our judgments.

Sincerely yours,

William Rogers
Project Director

WR/ls

MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

GRADUATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CLASS OF 1953

ANSWERS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

Date_____

Name: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms._____

If "Mrs.", give your maiden name here:_____

Present Address:_____

Telephone Number: _____

Previous addresses since graduation from vocational high school, including length of stay at each address:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Marital Status: _____Single _____Divorced or Separated

_____Married _____Widowed

If married, please give year of marriage_____

How many children do you have? _____

What trade did you study at the Middlesex County Vocational Schools:

_____

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION:

1. What is your present job? (Specify job title and a brief description.
   Example: Machinist of automobile parts or Secretary in law office)

_____

_____

2. How many hours per week do you usually work on your present job? Check one.

_____ Less than 20 hours
_____ 20 to 24 hours
_____ 25 to 29 hours
_____ 30 to 34 hours
_____ 35 to 40 hours
_____ More than 40 hours

3. If you are currently working less than 35 hours per week, please check the reason(s) for doing so.

_____ Cannot find a full-time job
_____ Full-time work week is less than 35 hours
_____ Temporary cut-back by the employer
_____ Enrolled in school or college
_____ Do not want a full-time job
_____ Other (Specify) _____

_____

4. How far is your place of work from your present residence?

_____ 0 - 10 miles
_____ 11 - 25 miles
_____ 26 - 50 miles
_____ More than 50 miles

5. What are your annual earnings on your present job?

_____ Less than $5,000
_____ $5,000 - $7,499
_____ $7,500 - $9,999
_____ $10,000 - $14,999
_____ $15,000 - $19,999
_____ $20,000 - $24,999
_____ $25,000 and above

6. Are you an hourly or salaried employee. Check one.

_____ Hourly
_____ Salaried

7. How do you feel about your present job? Check one.

_____ Like it very much
_____ Like it somewhat
_____ Neither like nor dislike it
_____ Dislike it somewhat
_____ Dislike it very much

8. Please describe the jobs you have held since graduation from vocational high school:

Employer	Job Title	Dates of Employment	Salary (Approx.)

9. Please list your military service experiences below:

Branch of Service	Dates	Highest Rank	Type of Work

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Please list below any additional education you have had since leaving high school. Give the name of the schools, if applicable.

   A. College or University _____

      Graduate: ____ Yes ____ No Date of attendance: _____

   B. Business School _____

      Graduate: ____ Yes ____ No Date of attendance: _____

   C. Correspondence Course _____

      Graduate: ____ Yes ____ No Date of attendance: _____

   D. Evening School _____

      Graduate: ____ Yes ____ No Date of attendance: _____

   E. Other _____

2. Have you been retrained for another job area/areas since your graduation in 1953? _____ Yes _____ No

3. If "Yes", in what area? _____

4. If "Yes", when were you trained? _____

5. If "Yes", where were you trained? _____

6. Have you been employed in the area for which you received retraining? _____ Yes _____ No

7. Which one of the following statements best describes the relationship between your present job and the training program at the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools?

_____ Job same for which trained
_____ Job highly related to training
_____ Job only slightly related to training
_____ Job not related to training

8. Please rate the following services of your vocational high school by checking the appropriate box in each instance.

	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE
a. Vocational Instruction	( )	( )	( )
b. All Other Instruction	( )	( )	( )
c. Vocational Shop	( )	( )	( )
d. Guidance and Counseling	( )	( )	( )
e. Job Placement	( )	( )	( )

9. We would like to know how you rate the assistance your vocational high school gave you on the following problems. (Please check the proper column for each item.)

PROBLEM	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE
a. Using your spare time	( )	( )	( )
b. Taking care of your health	( )	( )	( )

		ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE
c.	Taking part in community affairs	( )	( )	( )
d.	Marriage and family affairs	( )	( )	( )
e.	Preparation for work	( )	( )	( )
f.	Getting a job	( )	( )	( )
g.	Getting along with other people	( )	( )	( )
h.	Preparing for further education	( )	( )	( )
i.	Understanding your abilities and interests	( )	( )	( )
j.	Ability to read well	( )	( )	( )
k.	Using good English	( )	( )	( )
l.	Using mathematical skills	( )	( )	( )
m.	Using money wisely	( )	( )	( )
n.	Conducting business affairs	( )	( )	( )
o.	Thinking through problems	( )	( )	( )

10. Knowing what you know now, would you have taken the same vocational or technical program that you studied in your vocational high school? Check one.

_____ Yes _____ No

11. If "No", what shop program would you have taken? _____

12. Would you recommend your area of study to others for their education

_____ Yes _____ No

13. Have any of your children attended the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools?

_____ Yes _____ No

14. If "Yes", which school? _____

15. If "Yes", when did they attend? _____

16. If "Yes", what shop program did they select for study _____

17. If "Yes", are they presently working in their area of study?

_____ Yes _____ No

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Please use this space to give any <u>additional</u> comments and/or suggestions concerning the ways in which the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High Schools helped you or could have helped you.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE!

LET ME AGAIN ASSURE YOU THAT ALL RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE!